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The Carquinez Straits Suspension Bridge

Northern California has long been more or less isolated from the central part of the state by a branch of the San Pablo Bay known as the Carquinez Straits. With the development of the state highway system and the extensive use of automobiles, the isolation and consequent inconvenience of ferries has been felt more and more acutely.

The San Francisco Transit Company has plans and funds for the erection of a 3,000-foot suspension bridge over these straits as soon as permission can be obtained from the United States government and of Contra Costa County.

The proposed structure is to be of three spans: two of 750 feet and one of 1,500 feet; the road level is to be 135 feet above high water and is to be paved thirty feet wide. The towers are to be 390 feet high or 155 feet higher than the tower of the famous Ferry Building.

The superstructure will have a total weight of 8,925,000 pounds exclusive of piers and anchorages. The anchorages are to contain 1,034,000 pounds of steel and 10,000 cubic yards of concrete. The tower piers will contain 8,000 cubic yards of concrete. The structure will carry a moving load of 4,500,000 pounds and is estimated to last for two hundred years. The approximate time of crossing over the new structure will be two or three minutes.

A toll of about fifty per cent of the present ferry charges will be made. These charges, however, will diminish each year as traffic increases and amortization proceeds.
